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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,690	12/04/2001	Richard Wojdyla	5384/55373	9872

7590 09/01/2005
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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 09/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,690

Applicant(s)

WOJDYLA ET AL

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-18 and 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-18 and 21-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim. Amdt/Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 08 August 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The indicated allowability of claims 2, 8, 11-18 and 21-32 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Lee et al (US 6,430,543), Scolly et al (US 6,003,010) and Sansone et al (US 5,925,864). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow. This office action is therefore made NON FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al (US 6,430,543).

Re claim 1: Lee et al discloses a method for providing traceability of mail pieces, comprising the steps of: creating a plurality of mail pieces; providing a first tracing code on each of the plurality of mail pieces, the first tracing code corresponding to a source of the mail pieces (col. 2, lines 27-33); creating manifest SEM, which serves as a mailing

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statement for the plurality of mail pieces; providing a second tracing code on the mailing statement, the second tracing code corresponding to the source of the mail pieces (i.e., the manifest contains all of the unique indicia data for each of the plurality of mail pieces, wherein the unique indicia data identifies a source of the mail pieces) (col. 2, lines 25-34); and submitting the plurality of mail pieces to a postal service facility (col. 2, lines 37-38); and verifying (i.e., comparing) that the first tracing code corresponds to the second tracing code (col. 2, lines 42-48).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 2-4, 12-14, 16, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al in view of Sansone et al (US 5,925,864). The teachings of Lee et al have been discussed above.

Re claims 2-4, 12-14, 16, 17 and 29: Lee et al has been discussed above and further discloses the manifest, which serves as a mailing statement being encrypted (i.e., cryptographic) (col. 2, lines 34-37), but is silent with respect to encrypting the source tracing code on each of the plurality of mail pieces and scanning each of the mail pieces to read the encrypted source tracing code.

Sansone et al teaches source tracing code on each of the plurality of mail pieces is encrypted and scanning each of the mail pieces to read the encrypted source tracing code (col. 3, lines 45-58).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the encrypting method of Sansone et al into the system as taught by Lee et al in order to provide Lee et al with a more secure system wherein both indicia/tracing code on each individual mail pieces and on the mailing statement are encrypted, preventing either code from being manipulated by an unauthorized personnel.

8. Claims 8-11, 18, 21-26 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al in view of Scolly et al (US 6,003,010). The teachings of Lee et al have been discussed above.

Re claims 8-11, 18, 21-26 and 29-32: Lee et al has been discussed above but is silent with respect to capturing and recording an identity of an individual submitting said plurality of mail pieces.

Scolly et al teaches processing facility personnel receive, evaluate, and record identifying characteristics of the delivery person (i.e., processing facility personnel obtain photographs, fingerprints or voice recordings) (figs. 1, 2 and 4; col. 4, lines 21-67).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ the capture and recording identity of a person submitting the mail pieces or packages for delivery as taught by Scolly et al into the system of Lee et al in order to provide Lee et al with a more secure system wherein a sender of any suspicious mail piece/package can be identified readily based on the database record within the system.

9. Claims 15 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al as modified by Sansone et al (US 5,925,864) as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Scolly et al (US 6,003,010). The teachings of Lee et al as modified by Sansone et al have been discussed above.

Re claims 15 and 27-28: Lee et al/Sansone et al has been discussed above but is silent with respect to capturing and recording an identity of an individual submitting said plurality of mail pieces.

Scolly et al teaches processing facility personnel receive, evaluate, and record identifying characteristics of the delivery person (i.e., processing facility personnel

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obtain photographs, fingerprints or voice recordings) (figs. 1, 2 and 4; col. 4, lines 21-67).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ the capture and recording identity of a person submitting the mail pieces or packages for delivery as taught by Scolly et al into the system of Lee et al/Sansone et al in order to provide Lee et al with a more secure system wherein a sender of any suspicious mail piece/package can be identified readily based on the database record within the system.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 8-18 and 21-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

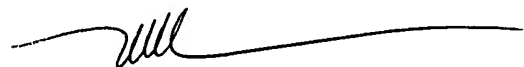
11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Pintsov (US 5586036 A); Tammi (US 5726897 A); Montgomery (US 20030101148 A1); Turner (US 20030136826 A) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to a method and system for mail security and traceability.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. 5:30AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Uyen-Chau N. Le
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

August 28, 2005